



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
a nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer
everyone plays®

REGION 65

TEAM PARENT

HANDBOOK

RANCHO CUCAMONGA

Everyone Plays — Balanced Teams — Open Registration

Positive Coaching — Good Sportsmanship — Player Development

www.ace65.org

TEAM PARENT HANDBOOK

AYSO – REGION 65

INFORMATION FOR TEAM PARENT

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Team Parent is the primary communication link between parents and coaches.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

TEAM INFORMATION: When speaking to any member of the Board it is important that you know the following information about your team: division number {i.e.: U10G or U19B}, team number, team name, coach's name. This will help ensure that your information is distributed to the appropriate board member for resolution.

TEAM PARENT ORIENTATION: The Regional Team Activities Coordinator will hold a general information session for all Team Parents to attend. The Team Parent will be given a copy of the Team Parent Handbook for their reference, an overview of Safe Haven (required by AYSO National), and any vendor information that will assist them in their responsibilities and information about Picture Day. For those not attending, their information will be provided to their Divisional for distribution.

TEAM ROSTER: Develop a team list consisting of players' names, telephone numbers and parents' names. This information can be obtained from the coach. Distribute the team roster to the player's parents for accuracy verification. (Provide any changes to the coach immediately). Once the uniform number, game schedule and snack schedule have been determined provide a final copy to the player's parents for review.

Example of Roster

Coach:	Oliver Offense	945-9999
Asst. Coach:	Denise Defense	945-9999
Team Parent:	Valerie Volunteer	945-9999
Sponsor:	One Great Company	

Player's Jersey No.	Player's Name	Telephone No.	Parent's Name
#5	Sally Soccer	(909) 999-9999	Sue and Sam
#6	Gail Goalie	(909) 888-8888	Glenda and George

TEAM NOTIFICATIONS: From time to time you may be asked to provide telephone support by the coach. This could include, but may not be limited to: weather cancellations, schedule changes, and general information. Another good way to

communicate with your team parents is through email. You might want to include an email address for each player on your roster.

UNIFORMS: Each player receives a uniform prior to the season opening. This uniform consists of a jersey, shorts and socks. Each player is responsible for taking care of the full uniform. Do not iron or bleach the jersey. Uniforms are to be worn for scheduled games, not for practice. Players may not wear rings, watches, chains, necklaces, earrings, or any hard ponytail holders or barrettes during a game as these items may cause injury during play.

Prior to distributing the uniforms, announce the practice day that you will be handing these out so that everyone can plan to attend. The easiest way to distribute the uniforms to the players is to form a line smallest to tallest with your players. Due to a limited number of jerseys, personal numbers may not be possible to accommodate. On a copy of the Team Roster make a note of the player uniform number and provide to the coach when distribution is complete. Providing this number on the team roster will help the team to link a name/face to a player on the field. This always encourages more player support on the sidelines.

SHOES: It is strongly suggested, but not mandatory, that players wear soccer shoes — the low sided "football" style shoes with rubber or plastic molded cleats (no metal). Shoes with toe cleats are not allowed. Players will be allowed to play if wearing tennis shoes.

SHIN GUARDS: *Shin guards are mandatory* by AYSO National. They may be purchased from a local sporting good stores and stores such as Wal-Mart. New lightweight shin guards provide freedom of movement without being heavy and cumbersome. A player **MUST** wear shin guards at all practices and games. A player should not be allowed to practice if he or she is not wearing shin guards.

BALL: Each player is encouraged to practice with a ball and it is recommended that a "real" soccer ball be obtained. A player needs to practice with a ball to develop skill and coordination. Any time spent with the ball makes for a better player and active parent participation is greatly encouraged. It is strongly recommended that the player's name be put on the ball for help in identification.

DIVISION	SIZE BALL
U6 & U8	3
U10 & U12	4
U14 , U16 and U19	5

SNACK SCHEDULE: The most efficient way is to simply run down your Team Roster and assign snack to the player on a rotating game day. When you reach the end of the list, start at the top again. The initial list will not contain playoff dates (when division appropriate) so a secondary snack schedule will need to be developed later in the season.

If a player's parent is not able to bring snack on their assigned date, it is the responsibility of that parent to switch with another player's parent. It is suggested that they provide a half-time snack (oranges are most popular) and a snack to be distributed at the end of the game (drinks and either homemade or store purchased snack item). It is highly recommended that these items be kept in a cooler with ice. It is always a good idea to bring a moist towel/washcloth for sticky hands and a bag for trash. Please stress to the players and parents to pick up their trash, to keep our fields clean.

TEAM BANNER: Team banners are not mandatory but they add festivity to the game. Banners can be professionally designed or handmade. Representatives from professional banner companies will make available flyers with their information at the Team Parent Meetings. You need to order your banner as soon as possible. You will want to have your banner before picture day. You need to have the team name approved by your Divisional before you can place the name on the banner. Provide the company making your banner with the following information: Team name, player's names, coaches' names, team parent's name, and name of the team's sponsor. **NEVER** list both the player's name and their jersey number on the banner. This is for the player's safety.

PICTURE DAY: You may want to ask for additional parent support on this date. The coach will receive the picture time, the picture packets and the uniforms on one night. It is suggested that you do not give out the picture ordering packet to the parents until the practice proceeding the picture day. This will allow the player parent to review the form but not enough time to lose track of the form.

Have the player information filled out prior to Picture Day. A standard picture package is provided to each player. If a parent wishes to purchase additional pictures than have them choose the package and fill out their form accordingly. The parent must provide a check/money-order ready to place in the picture packet. Every child must have a picture ordering packet to have their photo's taken. (*Each player must turn in a picture ordering packet even if they are not purchasing additional pictures.*) Please have your team arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled picture time. Form a line with the players from smallest to tallest before proceeding to the picture staging area. Once your team is ready, notify a board member in the picture staging area that your team is ready to go. If we are ahead of schedule then we will start taking teams that are ready. Please advise the parents that they will not be allowed in the picture staging Area. When your team has completed their pictures please exit the staging area. Do not forget to include yourself and your team referee in the picture.

DISTRIBUTION OF PICTURES/SPONSOR PLAQUES/PARTICIPATION PINS: When available for distribution they will be given to the Divisional who will then distribute them to the coaches and then to the team parent for player/sponsor distribution.

COACHES/REFEREE GIFT(S): This is not mandatory but is a way of showing support and thanks for all of the time the coaches have committed. Discuss what the team would like to contribute and take suggestions for possible gifts. Be sure to stay within your budget so you won't need to ask for additional monies.

END OF SEASON PARTY: This is not mandatory but it is a good way of celebrating your season with Coaches, Players, and Parents. You can discuss this celebration with your coach, players and parents for ideas and locations. Some teams choose a pizza party or perhaps a player's parent would host something in their home to celebrate. This is completely up to the team.

COLLECTION OF MONEY: The best way to accomplish this is to collect everything that you need up front. Calculate your budget (banner, coaches' gifts and end of season party) and divide the cost evenly amongst the players.

INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH YOUR PLAYER'S PARENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER: As a parent you can help your child's coach by introducing yourself and thanking them for their interest in coaching a team. Support the coach's request that your child be on time for practices and games. If you do not stay for the entire practice session, pick up your child promptly at the end of practice. Be positive with your comments and remember that a coach has a reason for his selections of player positions. Don't criticize the coach because you think that your child should play a different position. Remember that the coaches volunteer their time and energy to instruct and help your child, and they need your cooperation and support.

AYSO Referees are entitled to the highest respect from coaches, players and spectators. The referee's mistakes (and there will be mistakes) shall be accepted without complaint. Many of the referee's have no children playing in our region and all of them gladly give their time to help us. Please show them the respect they deserve. They are volunteers, and express your appreciation for their commitment to our soccer program. The region is always in need of referees. If you are interested in becoming a referee, contact the Regional Referee Administrator.

PARENT PARTICIPATION: *THE REGION AND THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION.* Attend practices and games. *PARENTAL SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL:* Learn about the rules of the game. Above all show tolerance of the players' mistakes and weaknesses. When attending games, cheer for all players on both teams as well as your own child. Every parent is requested to volunteer in some areas of the program and there are various jobs available. No matter how tempting it is to "Side Line" coach, please respect your coach and the players by being supportive and allowing the coach to coach the team.

REGIONAL PHILOSOPHY: The goal of Region 65 and the AYSO organization is to encourage the growth of soccer and promote positive child development. Although everyone engaged in sporting competition should have a desire to win, this desire should not be pursued to the exclusion of good sportsmanship, fair play and participation. AYSO is a parent based volunteer organization providing a soccer program for all children regardless of their experience or skill level. Registration of your child in our program implies responsibility to the team and adherence to the six principles

of AYSO: Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Positive Coaching, Open Registration, Good Sportsmanship and Player Development.

EVERYONE PLAYS: AYSO National requires that each player placed on a team play at least 1/2 of every game. It is the policy of AYSO Region 65 that during regular season games each player will play 3/4 of every game. These policies will be adhered to by every coach as long as the player:

PRACTICE LOCATION AND ATTENDANCE: As all of the coaches in AYSO are volunteers, practice times are scheduled at the coaches' convenience during the week and coordinated with the Region for field availability. Each player must arrange to arrive on time and be picked up on time. No uniforms are to be worn at practice. Shorts are better suited for the game of soccer than long pants. In cold weather, sweatpants are recommended as jeans can restrict motion. Cleats are best suited for most fields and should be worn at practice. It is recommended that each player bring an appropriately sized ball to practices.

GAME SCHEDULE: Games are to be played according to the schedule and will not be canceled due to inclement weather except at the game site shortly before game time. For most divisions all games are scheduled on Saturdays. Due to field availability, some games will be scheduled at night during the week.

FUNDRAISING: In order to keep our registration fees to a minimum, we offer the opportunity to participate in our sponsorship program. We also offer the opportunity for Corporate Sponsors to support our region. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please notify your coach and they will obtain the necessary paperwork for you. Our region depends on sponsorship participation to provide a quality soccer program for our children. Remember, a cash or sponsorship donation is a tax deductible charitable donation. .

SIDELINE ETIQUETTE: AYSO Soccer encourages positive self esteem, discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, acceptance of and learning from disappointment and success, as well as perseverance. It is also an enjoyable game to watch as well as to play. We believe that quality soccer can and should be developed and that it can and should be fun. Therefore, the emphasis of our program is not on whom wins but the players and teams develop, and most importantly, did they have fun in doing so? We want all participants to reach their full, age appropriate potential and to enjoy themselves in the process.

As spectators, we must realize that the players are trying their very best and deserve our very best in the way of support and encouragement. Negative comments have no place on the field or on the sidelines. We need to recognize that the effort of each player is 100% well intended and encourage each player to maintain that effort. It is also important to recognize all good play being demonstrated, regardless of what team the player is on.

The area off the field that the spectators occupy is on your own team's side, no closer than two yards from the touch line, and between the penalty areas. Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed behind the goal lines. Familiarize yourself with these field markings and remain within the area defined.

Allow the coach to be the sole source of coaching during the match, communicating tactical or technical adjustments to the players.

The area of the field that the coaches occupy is called the "Technical Area" and is on your own team's side, no closer than one yard from the touchline, and up to ten yards on either side of the halfway line. The "Technical Area" is limited to the head coach and one assistant coach for that team. Not only are these to be the only persons occupying the "technical area", they are the only persons who may coach {give tactical or technical information} during the course of the match.

An important aspect of the AYSO programs is Sportsmanship. Our children need to experience:

1. The fun of hard fought but fun competition;
2. Winning Graciously;
3. Losing graciously;
4. Improving one's abilities through practice;
5. Learning the social skills involved in being a member of a team; and
6. Acknowledging good play by teammates as well as opponents.

One of the ways in which our children can learn and continue to have these experiences is by our demonstration of good sideline behavior. Our children learn by watching and imitating our conduct. Keep a positive outlook and demonstrate it by supporting the coaches, players and referee's, in spite if any mistakes they may make during the course of a match.

VIP PROGRAM: The VIP program carries the AYSO Philosophy of "Everyone Plays" to a new height, including all children. The mission of the AYSO VIP Program is to provide a quality soccer experience for children whose physical or mental challenges make it difficult to successfully participate on a regular AYSO team. In the American Youth Soccer Organization, these kids are Very Important Players {VIP}. AYSO recognizes that all children need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance, and offers that acceptance through its VIP soccer program. Where ever you live there are potential VIP players in our valley schools and our community. With you help, these kids can have the benefits of sports participation in our VIP soccer program. If, as you read about the AYSO VIP Program and think of someone who might meet the criteria of a VIP player, please share this information with them. If you or they have any questions about this very exciting and rewarding program part of our program, please email the VIP director for more information. The VIP director's email address can be found on our website at www.ace65.org under the Board Members tab.

MISSION: To develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on our philosophies:

- Everyone Plays. Our goal is for kids to play soccer, so we mandate that every player on every team must play at least half of every game.
- Balanced Teams. At the start of each primary season we form teams as evenly balanced as possible. It is more fun where teams of equal ability play.
- Positive Coaching. Winning kids are built up, not torn down! We train and encourage our coaches to make the extra effort to understand and offer positive help to our players, rather than negative criticism.
- Open Registration. Our program is open to all children between 4 1/2 and 18 years of age who want to register and play soccer in our program. Interest and enthusiasm are the only criteria of playing.
- Good Sportsmanship. We desire to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship in every facet of AYSO.
- Player Development. To help the kids grow and development as players and as individuals.

BOARD MEMBERS AND MEETINGS: Regional Board of Directors Meetings are held monthly. Monthly Board meetings are open to parents and players in our region and to any interested party. A schedule of the monthly board meeting can be found on the region's website www.ace65.org. You can also find a list of board members on the region's website. The names and email addresses of all members of the region, as well as the information contained in the AYSO Executive Member Directory, are private and confidential and may not be disclosed or distributed to anyone, including any vendor or sponsor, without the prior written approval of the National Office.